



DISABILITY SERVICES BOARDS

A partnership of consumer, local government, and business working to increase access and develop consumer-oriented, community-based services for persons with physical and sensory disabilities.

In 1992, the General Assembly legislated the development of the Disability Services Boards (DSBs) to assist localities in identifying and addressing the needs of persons with physical and sensory disabilities in their communities. The Boards advise state and local government and agencies and, through incentive grants, leverage private and public dollars to improve service delivery and public awareness. Over 500 individuals serve on Virginia's 41 Disability Services Boards, which represent every political jurisdiction in the Commonwealth.

DUTIES

- Develop and make available for public comment an assessment of local needs and priorities of people with physical and sensory disabilities, updated every two years;
- Provide information and resource referral to local governments regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Administer the Rehabilitative Services Incentive Fund and serve as a catalyst for the development of public and private funding sources;
- Exchange information with other local boards regarding services to persons with physical and sensory disability and best practices in the delivery of services; and
- Provide such other assistance and advice to local governments as may be requested.

Boards are responsible to the governing body or bodies of the county or city or combination thereof, which established the Board.

MEMBERSHIP

Members are appointed by their local government. Membership must include at least one local official from each of the participating jurisdictions, two representatives of the business community, and persons with physical and sensory disabilities or their family members. Each Board must have no less than thirty- percent representation by persons with disabilities or their family members.

For More Information Contact Your Local Disability Services Board

If you do not know how to contact your local Board, call Shirley S. Ferguson or Sheila Williams at 1-800-552-5019 Voice or 1-800-464-9950 TTY.

**Assess Local Needs and
Priorities of People
with Physical and
Sensory Disabilities**

**Administer the
Rehabilitative
Services Incentive
Fund**

**Advise Local and
State Government**

**Inform and Educate
the Local
Community**